COMIC SHOP NEWS
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#2

# Alex Ross & The Visual Genesis of a Kirby Universe

*Jack Kirby* is the man who co-created the Marvel Universe; who gave us the Fourth World, home of the New Gods, the Forever People, Mister Miracle, and perhaps DC's greatest villain, Darkseid; the godlike Eternals; and (with Stan Lee) the Inhumans, the Asgardians, and many other epic concepts.

But *Alex Ross* is the artist who, in conjunction with co-writer *Kurt Busiek*, is uniting many of Kirby's most successful and fascinating creator-owned concepts into a single epic saga.

***Kirby: Genesis*** brings together a variety of Kirby characters—including characters visualized only in portfolios or design sketches—in a complex saga that will serve as the basis for a 21st century Kirby Universe known as Genesis. And for the first time in several years,Ross is not only co-writing the series, but is also supplying visuals: not only is Ross laying out the entire book, but he is also painting selected images and pages in every issue.

For Ross, this is an all-new approach to comics creation. "I've never laid out a book for an artist to follow my thumbnails before," he said. "It's kind of a redundant procedure, but it's also experimental. *Jackson Herbert* doesn't need my help, but it does aid in clarifying some of the physical interpretations of the new characters we're introducing, as well as finding that middle ground of big-impact design that will successfully marry our styles with Kirby's."

Does that mean that Ross is consciously taking on a Kirby-esque approach to the design of the book? "My style of layout is largely consistent to what I've done before—but the greater forced perspective, dramatic angles, and the other twists I can put upon the visual design are my attempt to find a middle ground that blends realism with the casual electric energy of Kirby's work. In many ways, the two things are worlds apart. I do feel like it's something where the Kirby visual mindset is always in my mind—but it's getting filtered through my artistic approach."

Exactly what comprises the Kirby style, as Ross sees it? "Kinetic energy is a big part of Kirby's gift to comics—subtle exaggeration of figure shape and movements as well as hyperextension of poses became the language of comics because of Jack Kirby," Ross explained. "In some ways the evolution that Kirby showed over fifty years of producing comics demonstrated a clear path of visual enlightenment, expanding from direct representational imagery to something that was in some ways a modern art cubist interpretation of life."

What led Ross to take on layout duties on ***Kirby: Genesis?*** "Kurt," Ross replied. "He wanted to see more of my hand in the process, and I offered to aid in this way. It also helps with the integration of the painted panels and figures that I'm doing that will intersect with Jackson's inked work. If it wasn't so exciting to see his finishes over the rough start I give him, I'd be less satisfied with the prospect of doing layouts—but right now I'm enjoying seeing what he does next, using my layouts as a stepping stone. We work so well together that Jackson has laid out some of the pages himself, clearly demonstrating that he is in visual sync with me."

In addition to supplying layouts, Ross is also supplying painted art on some parts of ***Kirby: Genesis.*** Is there a predetermined number of pages in each issue that will feature Ross painted art? "No—I'm painting some pages, but there's no set amount," Ross replied. "Mostly I wanted to try something unique, in that we're having two characters appear as painted figures whenever they do show up. We've extended that to include some kind of 'magical' moments where we see other characters in pivotal scenes that offer us a reasonable excuse for a painted effect."

What determines which pages will get the *Alex Ross* painted treatment? "Kurt's usually thinking ahead of me on

this," Ross said. "And since I've laid out so many pages, I'm holding myself back in some ways from images I'd love to render fully, but this is truly a showcase for *Jack Kirby's* work to be seen and appreciated."

When Ross chooses a page, is he doing all phases of art on that page, or is Jackson doing some finished pencil work over your layouts before Ross paint it? "No, the painted work is entirely separate from art that Jackson creates," Ross said. "I'm not painting over anybody's pencils except my own. A few pages are completely mine, but more often there will be an integration of a single figure or panel being done by me, mixed with a fully rendered page by Jackson."

How closely is he working with artist *Jackson Herbert* on this project? Does Ross see Herbert's pencils before the work gets inked and/or colored? " I usually see Jackson's work when it's inked and a colorist is finishing off the final work," Ross said.

Does Herbert modify the layouts, or does he stick pretty closely to what Ross has designed? "Jackson has followed my layouts very tightly so far; as we go along, there will be more he takes over on," Ross explained. "A lot of the intent is to try and make sure that these Kirby-designed characters have first moments that resemble Kirby's work to a degree, and that their style of rendering become set."

How long does it take to put together the layouts for an entire comic. And how is Ross preparing those layouts: is he working in a smaller size, or is doing layouts on full-sized art boards? For that matter, just how thorough are the layouts? "My layouts are only about three by four inches, and depending on the detail of what the script's asking for, I can get a whole book laid out in a week," Ross said. "Even so, the layouts are extremely tight, as people will see examples of in ***Kirby: Genesis #0***, where we

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

show off behind-the-scenes material."

Since Kirby created scores of characters, how do the creators keep the cast "under control"? Do some of the Kirby concepts get relegated to background roles only? "We are packing in a lot of characters throughout this series, but I think that Kurt's narrative makes the drama work; this showcasing won't feel any different than a trip through any other established comic book universe. We *will* have splinter books that spin out od this series, offering more expansion of specific characters. But there will definitely be some designs that will be seen in background elements only."

Just how does this compare to some of Kirby's "big concepts" mentioned earlier—the Asgardian gods or the Inhumans or the Eternals, with their cosmic scope? "It compares quite well," Ross said. "We have as many pieces at play in this universe as readers came to know in the many worlds Kirby established at Marvel or DC. There was a lot of stuff left over on Jack Kirby's drawing board that never got fully developed into the larger projects he would have had them become. We have the awesome chance to bring many of those pieces to further life."

Readers will get their first chance to see those concepts come to life in ***Kirby: Genesis #0***, a $1 comic slated for late May release. The story then kicks into high gear in ***Kirby: Genesis #1***, a $3.99 comic slated for June release. ***Kirby: Genesis #1*** will be offered with a trio of *Alex Ross* covers in equal ratio; a 1-in-5 *Ryan Sook* cover; a 1-in-10 *Paul Renaud* cover; a 1-in-15 *Dale Keown* cover; a 1-for-20 Ross acetate incentive; a 1-for-25 Ross wrap cover incentive; a 1-for-50 Renaud black and white incentive; a 1-for-75 Sook black and white incentive; and a 1-for-100 Ross sketch cover incentive. Check with the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop for info on incentive cover price and availability.

by Cliff Biggers

# COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

**Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com***

## DC Offers Retro-Active Look at the Past

This summer, DC will take its readers on a journey through the past with ***Retro-Active***, which "reunites classic writers and artists with classic characters Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, Green Lantern, The Flash, and Justice League of America, returning to the interpretations they are best known for. Each of these series will have three one-shots that pay homage respectively to the '70s, '80s, and '90s." The writers for these projects include:

- ***Batman Retro-Active:*** *Len Wein* ('70s); *Mike W. Barr* ('80s); *Alan Grant* ('90s).
- ***Flash Retro-Active***: *Cary Bates* ('70s); *William Messner-Loebs* ('80s); *Brian Augustyn* ('90s).
- ***Green Lantern Retro-Active:*** *Dennis O'Neil* ('70s); *Len Wein* ('80s); *Ron Marz* ('90s).
- ***Justice League of America Retro-Active***: *Cary Bates* ('70s); *Gerry Conway* ('80s); *Keith Giffen & J.M. DeMatteis* ('90s).
- ***Superman Retro-Active:*** *Martin Pasko* ('70s); *Marv Wolfman* ('80s); *Louise Simonson* ('90s).
- ***Wonder Woman Retro-Active***: *Dennis O'Neil* ('70s); *Roy Thomas* ('80s); *William Messner-Loebs* ('90s).

Each $4.99 oneshot will feature 26 pages of new story and art along with 20 pages of classic reprints. Look for ***Retro-Active*** to launch in July.

## Comic Shop Newsarama: Pros and Cons

The first week in April saw another major convention, WonderCon 2011—and where there are major conventions, there are major announcements as well as tantalizing news tidbits. Here are some of the highlights:

### DC

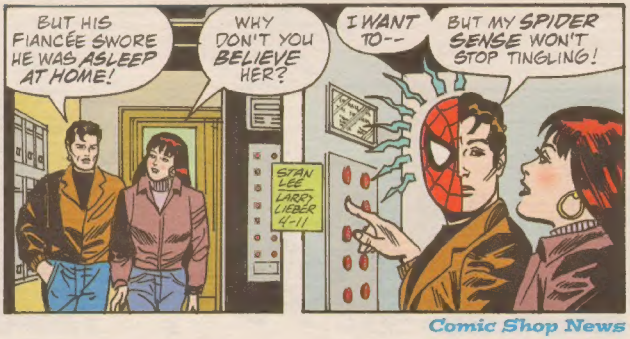
- *Geoff Johns* has announced that he will be joined by fan-favorite artist *Ivan Reis* and inker *Joe Prado* for the new ongoing ***Aquaman*** series launching soon after ***Brightest Day*** wraps up. "You can't get much better than that in comics," Johns said. "They've proven themselves with ***Green Lantern***, with ***Blackest Night***, and they'll do the same thing with ***Aquaman***." When asked how he would describe his take on Aquaman, Geoff replied, "Tough."
- Readers can look forward to learning more about Larfleeze's past in upcoming ***Green Lantern*** stories.
- When asked if there would be a White Lantern Corps, *Geoff Johns* replied enigmatically, "It will not be what you expect."

### WAR OF THE GREEN LANTERNS: AFTERMATH

- Just how significantly will "War of the Green Lanterns" impact the lives of Hal Jordan, Guy Gardner, John Stewart, and Kyle Rayner? That quesetion will be answered in the two-part ***War of the Green Lanterns: Aftermath,*** written by *Tony Bedard* and illustrated by *Miguel Sepulveda*. Look for it in July.
- DC editor *Joey Cavalieri* said that *Walter Simonson* is working on a graphic novel for DC, but Cavalieri didn't say who would be the feature character.

# SPIDER-MAN

**BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER**


BUT HIS FIANCÉE SWORE HE WAS ASLEEP AT HOME!
WHY DON'T YOU BELIEVE HER?
I WANT TO--
BUT MY SPIDER SENSE WON'T STOP TINGLING!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-11
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COMIC SHOP NEWS
Published weekly since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.
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•*Grant Morrison's* ***Multiversity,*** first mentioned last year, looks unlikely to launch in 2011; next year seems more probable. *Frank Quitely* is still wrapping up the original pages for the *We3* hardcover, and hasn't even started on the art for his ***Multiversity*** book year.

## Marvel

•*Victor Gischler & Ryan Stegman* are the creative team behind the upcoming ***Fear Itself: Hulk Vs. Dracula*** limited series, which Gischler said would offer more insights on Dracula's role in the Marvel Universe and the motivations that drive him.

•*Greg Pak & Mirko Colak* will explore the background of Captain America's most infamous adversary in ***Red Skull Incarnate,*** a five-part miniseries that Marvel's *C.B. Cebulski* described as "an examination of the Red Skull's rise to power in World War II.".

•*Warren Ellis* returns to the Marvel Universe later this year as writer of ***Secret Avengers.*** Ellis will follow the story format that proved so successful with ***Global Frequency*** and ***Fell:*** each issue will feature a self-contained story, beginning in #16 with a tale illustrated by *Jamie McKelvie*. Ellis will focus on different team members in each issue—"I'm not changing the overall cast, just picking and choosing smaller teams within that cast for each mission," he explained.

•***X-Men: Schism,*** a five-issue miniseries written by *Jason Aaron* and illustrated by *Carlos Pacheco, Frank Cho, Adam Kubert, Alan Davis, & Daniel Acuna*, will follow Marvel's mutants as the team fragments. Ultimately, Cyclops will become the leader of one group of mutants, while Wolverine will lead the other. "Scott Summers comes into his role as leader of the X-Men, with Wolverine as his first officer.. when ***Schism*** opens, we see these guys as Butch and Sundance, as close as they've been in their long history together," Aaron said. "Then something happens..."

•The Food Network's *Chris Cosentino* will join artist *Tim Seeley* for ***Wolverine: The Fifth Quarter.*** "This will be very food-centric and very much about San Francisco," Cosentino said. "It's an honor to be being able to actually write this comic."

•*Ed Brubaker & Steve McNiven* will relaunch ***Captain America*** in July, with Steve Rogers returning to the iconic costume. Marvel Senior VP *Tom Brevoort* told ***The New York Daily News*** that, "given that we are about to have a big Cap film and Cap's going to be in front of more people and in more folks' awareness than in any other time in recent memory—well, since we killed him, it would probably not be the worst thing in the world for him to be in the suit and carrying the shield at that point."

## Abstract

•With *Terry Moore's* ***Echo*** building to its planned conclusion with the thirtieth issue, Moore has already begun work on his next project: ***Rachel Rising*** is a comic whose lead character is a woman who is already dead. "It's a supernatural story about a woman who is killed and then wakes up," Moore explained. "It's not zombies; it's not ghosts. I have a new take on it." According to Moore, the story's central figure is a new take on a character who was originally intended as a cast member of his ***Birds of Prey*** run for DC, had he remained with the book. "I had a vision of the characters fighting this character they couldn't figure out, a character who brought a unique, dark side to the series. I kept that in my pocket, and now I'm taking it out."

Moore offered a mass-media comparison of his three comics projects. "***Strangers in Paradise*** was like a TV show that could have gone on forever. ***Echo*** was more like a movie—I knew where I wanted to go with it, and then it was done. ***Rachel Rising*** is a TV series. I want to build a world again."

•*Terry Moore* is also launching a line of instructional publications beginning this summer; the series will be called ***How to Draw,*** and it begins with Moore's guide to drawing women (a subject with which he has more than a little expertise). "After 17 years, I have something to share, so I'm going to share it," Moore said. "I want to focus on how I'm cheating at comics."

## Boom Studios

•Boom's ***Planet of the Apes*** will integrate the continuity of the first five films into its storyline. "It takes place in continuity of the first five films," editor-in-chief *Matt Gagnon* said, "and it's an authentic continuation of the ***Planet of the Apes*** saga. There are characters in first issue you will recognize, and a lot of new characters in the first issue you *won't* recognize because they are brand new characters we're creating for the mythology. It's an epic in the true sense of the word; it's a big, sprawling story about politics, love, and war."

•Boom's upcoming ***Elric*** series, based on the sword-and-sorcery hero created by *Michael Moorcock*, will not only feature the albino prince, but will also feature other acclaimed Moorcock creations such as Corum and Hawkmoon.

•Boom hinted that an expansion of the *Mark Waid*-created ***Irredeemable/Incorruptible*** universe might be in the works, but played coy and thus offered no real details.

•***Too Much Coffee Man*** creator *Shannon Wheeler* has signed a three-book deal with Boom; the trio of projects include a volume of ***Too Much Coffee Man,*** a "Little Boom Book" entitled ***Grandpa Won't Wake Up,*** and another collection of Wheeler's rejected ***New Yorker*** cartoons.

•A crossover involving ***Darkwing Duck*** and ***Chip and Dale's Rescue Rangers?*** Editor *Matt Gagnon* hinted that it's under consideration, but didn't confirm it as a definite.

## Dark Horse

•*Joss Whedon's* ***Angel*** makes his Dark Horse series return this summer—but he won't be soloing. Instead, Angel will star with Buffy's rival slayer in an ***Angel & Faith*** 25-issue series that launches in August, courtesy of writer *Christos Gage* and artist *Rebekah Isaacs*.

•And Buffy fans don't have too much longer to wait: ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Season Nine*** kicks off its 25-issue run in September. *Joss Whedon* will write the first arc, after which he'll be joined by co-writer *Andrew Chambliss*, who has worked with Whedon on ***Dollhouse,*** as well as such non-Whedon series as ***Vampire Diaries*** and ***Heroes. Buffy Season Eight*** artist *Georges Jeanty* is still on board for the ninth series, as is cover artist *Jo Chen*.

•*Andrew Chambliss* is also joining *Jed Whedon* and *Maurissa Tancharoen* as co-writer of the five-issue ***Dollhouse*** miniseries that launches in July, picking up from the conclusion of the

PETER KEEPS TOSSING IN HIS SLEEP!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-12
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recently-released ***Dollhouse*** oneshot. The series will be illustrated by *Cliff Richards*, who supplied the art for the aforementioned oneshot.

•Dark Horse editor *Scott Allie* said that the publisher would certainly like to return to ***Fray***, the future slayer in the Buffyverse, at some point in the future, but they'd want Whedon to be involved, and he doesn't have the time right now.

•*Joss Whedon's* busy schedule is also the reason that there's no ***Serenity*** book on Dark Horse's schedule for the foreseeable future.

## IDW

•*Darwyn Cooke's* first two Parker adaptations, ***The Hunter*** and ***The Outfit*** (based on the *Richard Stark* novels), will be collected in an oversized slipcased hardcover edition that will feature an additional 65 pages of Cooke content. ***Parker: The Martini Edition,*** slated for July release, will include sketches, preliminary art, and a brand-new eight-page Parker story done expressly for this volume. "The first two Parker graphic novels have been met with such overwhelming praise," series editor *Scott Dunbier* said. "With this ***Martini Edition*** we're really trying to up the bar and give the fans something extra special—I think we'll succeed!"

•The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are making their long-awaited return to comics this summer, courtesy of IDW in cooperation with Nickelodeon. "Through this partnership, we're able to introduce ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*** to a new generation of fans, while also providing new stories for the fans who grew up enjoying these comics," said *Paula Allen*, Senior Vice President, Global Publishing, Nickelodeon Consumer Products. "These all-new comics and graphic novels based on the original series will support the overwhelming demand we've received from the millions of ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*** fans looking to reconnect with this celebrated franchise."

"We're thrilled to be a part of Turtles," said *Greg Goldstein*, chief operating officer for IDW. "This is one of the most successful comic book franchises ever, and we look forward to exploring new territory with our ongoing series, as well as reliving all the classic adventures."

Leonardo, Michelangelo, Donatello, and Raphael return to comics beginning this summer, while the Turtles will make their animation return on Nickelodeon in the fourth quarter of 2012.

•IDW publishing Thor? That's right! Under a licensing agreement with Marvel Comics, IDW will offer ***Walter Simonson's The Mighty Thor: Artist's Edition.*** Produced in the same format as their sold-out ***Dave Stevens' Rocketeer: Artist's Edition,*** this oversized hardcover collection will present Simonson's ***Thor #s 337-340*** (Simonson's first arc, which introduced Beta Ray Bill) and ***#s 360-362*** (Simonson's personal choice for the second arc in this collection) in a deluxe oversized edition virtually the same size as the original art.

"I can't tell you how thrilling it is to be able to do a book like this," said IDW Special Projects Editor *Scott Dunbier*. "Each page is shot from *Walter Simonson's* original art and printed same size—really just too cool. Thanks to Marvel Entertainment for being so enthusiastic about this project from the start!"

All the pages in ***Walter Simonson's The Mighty Thor: Artist's Edition*** have been scanned from Simonson's personal original art to ensure the highest possible quality reproduction. While *appearing* to be in black and white, each page has actually been scanned in color to mimic as closely as possible the experience of viewing the actual original art—for instance, white-out corrections and blue pencil notations.

Look for this lavish edition in July—and yes, it is the first in a series of planned IDW editions featuring legendary creators and comics from Marvel!

## Image

•Writer *Brandon Seifert* described his upcoming ***Witch Doctor*** (slated for summer release under *Robert Kirkman's* Skybound imprint) as "Dr. House meets Dr. Strange." The book's central character is a surly doctor who specializes in supernatural ailments such as vampirism and demonic possession. The book features art by *Lukas Ketner*.

•*Ben McCool & Nate Cosby* are launching a new ongoing series, ***Pigs,*** which focuses on a dormant Cuban sleeper cell from the Cold War years who find themselves called into duty in modern times, where they are told they must work to overthrow the US government.

•Robert Kirkman unveiled a teaser image featuring a young black man in the familiar Invincible costume, but no further details were revealed. "All I'll say is that it *is* a different guy in the Invincible costume. Mark Grayson is *not* black, suddenly. I just want to make that clear," Kirkman joked.

## Archaia

•Archaia is producing a graphic novel based on ***Immortals,*** the upcoming mythology-inspired film starring *Henry Cavill*, the actor chosen to be the next cinematic Superman. The graphic novel expands upon the film's key characters and events via a series of original tales written and illustrated by such talents as *David Mack, Ron Marz, Dennis Calero,* and *Ben Templesmith*. The graphic novel will be published through Archaia's Black Label division, a publishing pipeline dedicated to working alongside creative professionals within the entertainment industry eager to launch and expand their brands in the publishing world.

In ***Immortals,*** the ruthless King Hyperion leads his bloodthirsty army on a murderous rampage across Greece to find a deadly weapon that will destroy humanity. Theseus, a mortal chosen by Zeus, must lead the fight against Hyperion and his evil army, with the fate of mankind and the Gods at stake.

•Archaia has landed the rights to produce an original hardcover anthology based on *Jim Henson's* ***The Storyteller.*** The book will feature material by *Roger Langridge, Jimmy Palmiotti, Justin Gray, Jeff Parker, Paul Tobin, Colleen Coover, Francesco Francavilla, Brian Clevinger, Tom Fowler, Marjorie Liu, Evan Shaner,*

*Jennifer Meyer, Katie Cook, Chris Eliopoulos, Ron Marz, Jim McCann,* and *Janet Lee*, as well as a story adapted from an original never-produced screenplay by *Anthony Minghella*. Editor *Nate Cosby* said that, as was the case with the original TV series, ***Jim Henson's The Storyteller*** will offer reimaginings of classic tales. Look for it in September.

## Back to Press

•***Blue Estate #1 2nd Printing*** (FEB118120), in stores 5/4.

•***Green Wake #1 2nd Printing*** (FEB118259), in stores 5/4.

•***Infinite Vacation #1 3rd Printing*** (Feb118268), in stores 5/11.

•***New Mutants #23 2nd Printing*** (FEB118273), in stores 5/11.

•***Nonplayer #1 2nd Printing*** (FEB118267), in stores 5/11.

•***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #153 2nd Printing*** (DEC108349), in stores 5/11.

•***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #154 2nd Printing*** (FEB118263), in stores 5/11.

•***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #155 2nd Printing*** (FEB118264), in stores 5/11.

•***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #156 2nd Printing*** (FEB118265), in stores 5/11.

•***Undying Love #1 2nd Printing*** (FEB118097), in stores 5/11.

•***X-Men: Legacy #246 2nd Printing*** (FEB118274), in stores 5/11.

## BATMAN: GATES OF GOTHAM #1 (OF 6)

**Scott Snyder & Kyle Higgins (W); Trevor McCarthy (A)**

*(DC MAR110292 $2.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

When a mystery as old as Gotham City itself surfaces, Batman assembles a team of his greatest detectives—including Red Robin, Owlman, I-Ching and others—to investigate this startling new enigma with roots in different eras of Gotham's history, involving such notable Gotham families as the Waynes, Kanes, and Elliotts.

### Why Should You Care?

*Scott Snyder* offers new insights into the complex Gotham history that played a pivotal role in ***Batman: The Return of Bruce Wayne,*** offering new insights into the intertwined nature of destiny and the Dark Knight.

## BREED III #1

**Jim Starlin (W/A)**

*(Image MAR110507 $2.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

After being attacked by some of his fellow 'Breed, Ray Stoner realizes he can no longer hide from what he is: a monster. He returns to the mystical city Elsewhere and discovers much has changed...

### Why Should You Care?

More than a decade after beginning this dark fantasy-adventure, *Jim Starlin* returns to give readers the long-awaited next installment of the saga—but if you know Starlin, you know it's worth the wait!

## CHARLAINE HARRIS' GRAVE SIGHT GN VOL 1 (OF 3)

**Charlaine Harris & Bill Harms (W); Denis Medri (A)**

*(Dynamite MAR111048 $7.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

After being struck by lightning, Harper Connelly finds herself attuned to dead people, knowing how and when they died. Now she uses her skills to bring murderers to justice and to help bereaved families find some measure of peace.

YEAH, I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT MORBIUS!
WELL, I'D BETTER GET DOWN TO THE BUGLE AND TALK TO JAMESON.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-13
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stanzfanz @ aol.com

# CSN TOP COMICS: MAY

### Why Should You Care?

Considering how well *Charlaine Harri's* Sookie Stackhouse tales have translated to television as *True Blood*, there's a very devoted fan following for this adaptation of Harris's other fantasy series.

## DELIRIUM'S PARTY A LITTLE ENDLESS STORYBOOK HC

**Jill Thompson (W/A)**

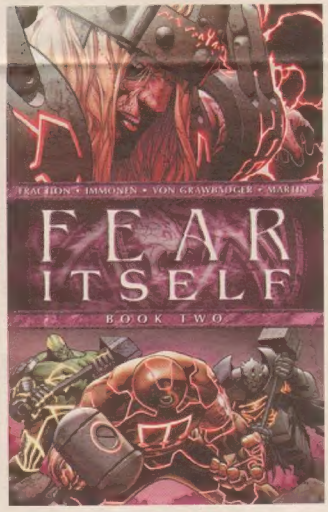
*(Vertigo/DC NOV100264 $14.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

In an effort to rid Despair of her unhappiness once and for all, Little Delirium throws a party for her dour sister and invites siblings Dream, Destruction, Death, Destiny and Desire. But you can rest assured that this is no ordinary affair...

### Why Should You Care?

*Jill Thompson* revisits the realm of the Little Endless in this charmingly twisted graphic novel spotlighting the ever-charming, always unpredictable Delirium.




## FEAR ITSELF #2 (OF 7)

**Matt Fraction (W); Stuart Immonen (A)**

*(Marvel MAR110612 $3.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

As Odin and the Asgardians leave the Earth to fend for itself against the God of Fear, the Avengers and the world's remaining heroes battle the unstoppable tide of terror! But the Serpent doesn't plan to go it alone—which is why he's selecting his own avatars of evil. But who are The Worthy?

### Why Should You Care?

*Matt Fraction* takes this Marvel Saga to a truly epic level in a tale that explores the essence of godhood and humanity, fear and bravery, and good and evil. Oh, and there's *lots* of fighting...

## FLASHPOINT #1

**Geoff Johns (W); Andy Kubert (A)**

*(DC MAR110276 $3.99)*

## BOOSTER GOLD #44 (FLASHPOINT)

**Dan Jurgens (W);**
**Dan Jurgens & Norm Rapmund (A)**

*(DC MAR110281 $2.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

When Barry Allen wakes at his desk, he discovers the world has changed. Family is alive, loved ones are strangers, and close friends are different, gone... or worse. It's a world on the brink of a cataclysmic war - but where are Earth's Greatest Heroes to stop it? How has Cyborg risen to become America's last hope, leading a force comprised of The Outsider, The Secret 7, SIHIAIZIAIM!, Citizen Cold and other new and familiar-yet-altered faces! And how can the Flash restore this world to its rightful state? And since Booster Gold is the only other hero to know that the timestream has been altered, what role will he play in its restoration?

### Why Should You Care?

With *Blackest Night*, *Geoff Johns* proved that he knows how to do a big event—and with *Flashpoint*, he takes it to the next level with a saga that totally resets the DCU. Savvy fans will also want to check out *Dan Jurgens'* ***Booster Gold***, the only ongoing DCU series to earn a coveted spot as a *Flashpoint* tie-in.

## GREEN LANTERN MOVIE PREQUEL: ABIN SUR #1

**Michael Green (W); Karl Kerschl (A)**

*(DC MAR110264 $2.99)*

## GREEN LANTERN MOVIE PREQUEL: HAL JORDAN #1

**Geoff Johns, Greg Berlanti, & Donald De Line (W); Jerry Ordway (A)**

*(DC MAR110266 $2.99)*

## GREEN LANTERN MOVIE PREQUEL: KILOWOG #1

**Peter Tomasi & Adam Schlagman (W); Joe Bennett & Fabrizio Fiorentino (A)**

*(DC MAR110263 $2.99)*

## GREEN LANTERN MOVIE PREQUEL: SINESTRO #1

**Geoff Johns & Michael Goldenberg (W); Fernando Dagnino (A)**

*(DC MAR110262 $2.99)*

## GREEN LANTERN MOVIE PREQUEL: TOMAR RE #1

**Marc Guggenheim (W); Cliff Richards (A)**

*(DC MAR110265 $2.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

In preparation for the summer hit *Green Lantern* film, DC offers five all-new prequel oneshots, each focusing on a different character from the film.

### Why Should You Care?

DC has enlisted such high-caliber comics talent as *Geoff Johns and Peter Tomasi*, to spotlight this ring-wielding quintet—and they're joined by comics and movie double-threat writer *Marc Guggenheim* ***Green Lantern*** screenwriters *Michael Goldenberg & Michael Green*, screenwriter/producer *Greg Berlanti*, and the film's producer, *Donald De Line*. And you can't make these prequels more official than that!

## GRIMM FAIRY TALES: DREAM EATER CROSSOVER (PT 1) #1

**Raven Gregory (W)**

*(Zenescope MAR111352 $5.99)*

## PIPER—GRIMM FAIRY TALES: DREAM EATER ONE SHOT (PT 2)

**Raven Gregory (W)**

*(Zenescope MAR111356 $2.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

The Dream Eater is loosed on the Earth, and he's searching for victims among the heroes and villains of the Grimm Fairy Tales Universe...

### Why Should You Care?

Think that crossover event tales are the exclusive purview of the big publisher? Think again! Zenescope brings the stars of its growing line of books together for their first big crossover event—and they've enlisted star writer *Raven Gregory* to tell the tale.

## KIRBY: GENESIS #0

**Kurt Busiek & Alex Ross (W);**
**Alex Ross & Jackson Herbert (A)**

*(Dynamite MAR111016 $1.00)*

### What's the Scoop?

A space probe carries a message to the far reaches of space... but is the world prepared for the response? Find out in the introductory chapter of a grand cosmic adventure.

### Why Should You Care?

*Kurt Busiek & Alex Ross* evoke the grand feel of a Kirby saga in this series that explores some of Kirby's most promising creator-owned concepts. And with Ross co-writing *and* supplying layouts, as well as some fully painted pages, who can resist?

HI, ROBBIE.
IF I WERE YOU, PETER, I'D TURN AROUND AND HEAD FOR HOME!
J. JONAH JAMESON PUBLISHER
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-14
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JONAH'S ON A RAMPAGE BECAUSE...
DID I HEAR SOMEBODY MENTION PETER PARKER?
BAH! YOU'RE AN IMPOSTER--
--OR ELSE YOU'D HAVE A PHOTO OF THAT SO-CALLED VAMPIRE!
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## MOON KNIGHT #1

**Brian Bendis (W); Alex Maleev (A)**
*(Marvel MAR110697 $3.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

The multiple-personality Moon Knight is back in action in his new home, Los Angeles, where he fights crime as a one-man Avengers.

### Why Should You Care?

It's Bendis and Maleev—the same guys who made ***Daredevil*** a top-tier title, remember. What more reason do you need?

## MORIARTY #1

**Daniel Corey (W); Anthony Diecidue (A)**
*(Image MAR110528 $2.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

Years after defeating his adversary, Professor Moriarty discovers that his life has become meaningless and without challenge. Then he's enlisted to find Sherlock Holmes' long-lost brother, and the game is afoot!

### Why Should You Care?

Sherlock Holmes has achieved new-found popularity in comics, so it's about time that his lifelong adversary got his moment in the sun—and that's just what *Daniel Corey & Anthony Diecidue* deliver in this energetic mystery with SF overtones.

## STRANGE ADVENTURES #1

**Brian Azzarello, Scott Snyder, Peter Milligan, & others (W); Eduardo Risso, Jeff Lemire, Kevin Colden, & others (A)**
*(Vertigo/DC MAR110379 $7.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

Vertigo is spacebound as they launch their first original SF anthology, an eighty-page collection featuring sophisticated, thought-provoking SF with the edginess that has come to define the Vertigo imprint.

### Why Should You Care?

If the concept of a Vertigo science fiction anthology doesn't pique your curiosity, this should: ***Strange Adventures #1*** will contain the first chapter of ***Spaceman***, the new series from the ***100 Bullets*** team of *Brian Azzarello & Eduardo Risso* (and no, it's *not* about the doctor from ***30 Rock***).

## ULTIMATE COMICS SPIDER-MAN #158

**Brian Bendis (W); Mark Bagley (A)**
*(5/11 Marvel MAR110641 $3.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

An injured Peter Parker is in no shape to face off against the Sinister Six—but that's just what he'll have to do, or else Aunt May and Mary Jane could become their next victims.

### Why Should You Care?

***Ultimate Spider-Man's*** creators *Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley* are making "The Death of Spider-Man" one of the most compelling stories of the year—and you're not going to believe where this story is going!

## VAMPIRELLA: SCARLET LEGION #1

**Joe Harris (W); Jose Malaga (A)**
*(Dynamite MAR111021 $3.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

When the world is threatened by an evil unleashed from an ancient tome, Vampirella may not be up to the challenge alone—which is why the Scarlet Legion are assembled to save the world. But will they see Vampirella as ally or adversary?

### Why Should You Care?

Dynamite has made Vampirella a dark star, once again, and now it's time for her supporting cast to get their moment in the sun. This miniseries expands on the Vampirella mythos, paving the way for big things to come.

## X-MEN: PRELUDE TO SCHISM #1

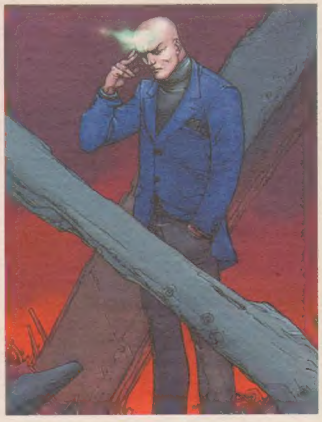
**Paul Jenkins (W); Roberto De La Torre (A)**
*(Marvel MAR110714 $2.99)*

### What's the Scoop?

Leadership of the X-Men has always taken a toll on those who have borne that burden. Now it appears that Cyclops is about to discover just how heavy that burden can be as he is confronted with a seemingly insurmountable split in the team's ranks.

### Why Should You Care?

*Paul Jenkins* lays the groundwork for the biggest X-Men event in years—a storyline that will tear the mutants asunder and lead to the formation of two teams with different leaders and very different agendas.



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# FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

## ALAN MOORE: STORYTELLER HC

*(Universe FEB111253 $45.00)*

*Gary Spencer Millidge* presents a survey of Moore's work, from his high-profile best sellers to rarely-seen experimental projects such as ***Maxwell the Magic Cat***, as well as spoken word and performance art. The book will include a supplemental audio CD featuring excerpts from some of Moore's multimedia performances and songs.

## ART OF AMANDA CONNER HC

*(IDW MAR110472 $29.99)*

Desperado editor *Joe Pruett* spotlights one of the most talented and prolific women working in comics today. If you've perused any of Pruett's earlier Desperado art volumes, you know why we say that nobody does it better—look for high-quality reproduction, lots of commentary, and hundreds of pieces of art, much of which has never before seen print.

## COMICS ON TRIAL SC VOL 1

*(Pure Imagination MAR111225 $25.00)*

*Greg Theakston* has assembled a transcript of the of the 1954 Senate Subcommittee hearings (aka the Kefauver hearings) that almost killed the comics industry and led to the creation of the Comics Code Authority. Among those testifying were *Milton Caniff, William Gaines, Walt Kelly,* and *Fredric Wertham.*

## KEEPING THE WORLD STRANGE: PLANETARY GUIDE SC

*(Sequart MAR111401 $19.95)*

Editor *Cody Walker* presents an insightful and accessible look at the complex, continuity-bending series by *Warren Ellis & John Cassaday.* And you know if it says Sequart on the cover, it's gotta be worth reading!

## LIFE AND TIMES OF WALT KELLY HC

*(Hermes MAR111403 $49.99)*

The acclaimed and influential creator of ***Pogo*** gets his moment in the spotlight in this insightful look at the life and career of the best-selling creator. This book covers his early days at Disney, his work at Dell, and his creation of one of the most fondly-remembered strips in comic book history—it's all in here!

## MARVEL COMICS IN THE 1970S SC

*(TwoMorrows MAR111287 $27.9)*

*Pierre Comtois* focuses on Marvel's transitional decade—the era in which *Stan Lee* made the move from hands-on editor and writer to inspirational figurehead, the period in which *Jack Kirby* left the company he helped make, the era in which Marvel expanded its line from a tightly-connected core handful of titles to an expansive line of comics for all tastes.

## TERRY MOORE'S HOW TO DRAW #1: WOMEN

*(Abstract MAR110813 $3.99)*

***Strangers in Paradise*** and ***Echo*** creator *Terry Moore* shares his drawing secrets in a series of lessons discussing everything from anatomy to drawing tools, from body language to Photoshop, with comprehensive notes, tips and observations.

# Collected Cool: May's Best Reprint Volumes

## BARKS' BEAR BOOK HC

*(IDW MAR110489 $34.99)*

We know Barks as *the* Duck Artist, but that's far from the only anthropomorphic animal series to benefit from his gift at storytelling. This collection presents the rarely-seen Barks tales of Barney Bear and Benny Burro.

BARKS' BEAR BOOK
CARL BARKS OF DONALD DUCK TAKES ON BARNEY BEAR!
EDITED + DESIGNED BY
CRAIG YOE
COVER + INTRODUCTION BY
JEFF SMITH

ACTUALLY, YOU DON'T-- UNLESS I SELL YOU A PHOTO!
TALK! TALK! TALK! I'M A BUSY MAN!
GET ME A SHOT OF THAT URBAN DRACULA TONIGHT--
OR I'LL FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN!
SLAM!
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## BONE ONE VOLUME COLOR EDITION SIGNED HC 20TH ANNIVERSARY BOX SET

*(Cartoon MAR111015 $350.00)*

Strictly limited and filled with goodies and extras, this is going to be on every ***Bone*** fan's wish list. The ***20th Anniversary Full Color One Volume Collector's Box Set*** features all 1344 full color pages of Bone in a single volume adorned with colorful foil stamps and art work and includes a satin ribbon bookmark. This full-color volume comes in a beautiful, illustrated red box with a magnetic clasp, filled to the brim with limited collectibles such as a signed and numbered art print, a 22k gold plated Bone coin, pewter figures of the three Bone cousins, a miniature facsimile of the Bone #1 comic book in b&w, a Bone cover gallery, a new essay by Jeff Smith called 'Twenty Years with Bone,' an illustrated timeline, and the award-winning feature length documentary DVD. (*Whew!*) This edition will be signed and limited to 2,000 copies, so grab it when you see it—there will be no second chances!

## CAPTAIN AMERICA OMNIBUS HC VOL 1

*(Marvel DEC100636 $99.99)*

Collects Captain America tales from ***Tales of Suspense #s 59-99, Captain America #s 100-113***, and more, featuring work by *Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Jim Steranko, Gil Kane, John Romita*, and others. These are the stories that made the Golden Age patriotic hero a Marvel mainstay—and some of this volume's WWII tales are strong influences on the upcoming film.

## DEADMAN TP VOL 1

*(DC FEB110198 $19.99)*

Now that he's a ***Brightest Day*** star, you can see how his adventures began in this collection of Deadman tales from ***Strange Adventures #s 205-213***, featuring some of *Neal Adams'* finest work.

## FLASH OMNIBUS BY GEOFF JOHNS HC VOL 1

*(DC JAN110328 $75.00)*

Everyone knows *Geoff Johns'* current work at DC, but very few of today's were lucky enough to enjoy his initial chronicles of the Scarlet Speedster. This oversized volume collects ***Flash #s 164-176, Flash: Our Worlds at War #1, Flash: Iron Heights***, and ***Flash Secret Files #3.***

## TREASURE CHEST TP VOL 1

*(Bluewater MAR110941 $15.99)*

In the 40s, 50s, and 60s, comics were far more ubiquitous than many realize, as this collection demonstrates. ***Treasure Chest*** features classic stories of sports figures and folk heroes, saints, school kids, history, science, and other inspirational and educational subjects, drawn by such artists as *Reed Crandall, Graham Ingels, Joe Orlando, Joe Sinnott, Murphy Anderson*, and *Jim Mooney*.

## VANGUARD FRAZETTA CLASSICS SC VOL 2: WHITE INDIAN

*(Vanguard MAR111292 $24.95)*

Vanguard's first collection focused on comic strips, but the second spotlights some of his stunning comic art, collecting the complete *Frank Frazetta* sixteen-issue run of White Indian from the back pages of ***Durango Kid*** comics.

## YOSSEL TP

*(DC FEB110212 $14.99)*

At long last, *Joe Kubert's* captivating and poignant look at what might have been returns to print. This compelling tale exploring what might have happened had his parents never brought him to the US in 1926 is perhaps the legendary creator's finest single work.

# Hot Commodities:
## May's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

## GREEN LANTERN 1/4 SCALE POWER BATTERY & RING PROP

*(DC Direct OCT100343 $35.00)*

The Green Lantern 1:4-scale Power Battery and the Green Power Ring sit in a translucent green display and are removable from the stand. Both light up, featuring manual on/off switches. And both are going to sell out very quickly as the upcoming ***Green Lantern*** film brings in new readers who will be up every copy they can find...

## HARLEY QUINN 1/4 SCALE STATUE

*(DC Direct OCT100346 $325.00)*

Harley Quinn's costume is exquisitely tailored and detailed, while various mixed media elements give this 16" tall museum-quality statue texture and visual interest.

## HEROES OF THE DCU BLACK LANTERN BATMAN BUST

*(DC Direct OCT100342 $70.00)*

Presenting the Darkest Knight of them all, this *Jean St. Jean* sculpt is based on the art of *Ivan Reis*.

## IRON MAN CLASSIC MUSEUM STATUE

*(Bowen MAR111817 $200.00)*

*Khurram Alavi* sculpts the Golden Avenger for the ***Iron Man Classic Museum Statue***, an impressive 13.5" tall piece that will make a stunning addition to any Marvel fan's collection.

## THANOS MINI-BUST

*(Bowen MAR111819 $85.00)*

The Mad God of Titan, the massive monster in love with Death herself, becomes one of the most striking sculpts in Bowen Design's impressive collection.

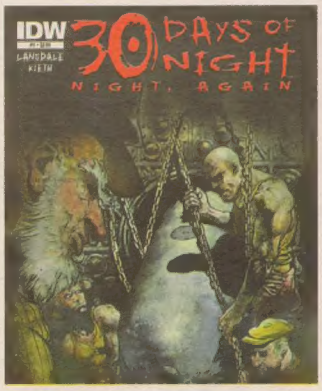
## ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN GREEN LANTERN VS SINESTRO STATUE SET

*(Marvel AUG100281 $175.00)*

## ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN SUPERMAN VS BIZARRO STATUE SET

*(DC Direct OCT100347 $175.00)*

The two-figure statue sets allow collectors to create their own hero-villain face-offs. The statues can pivot independently on their bases and rotate their heads to customize and direct the action. Mix and match them to create your own showdown or combine them all in one ultimate battle scene.




# Check 'Em Out: Books You Should Be Reading

## 30 DAYS OF NIGHT: NIGHT AGAIN #1 (OF 4)

*(IDW MAR110447 $3.99)*

Fleeing the site of a secondary vampire infestation in the cold, wilds of Alaska, a band of survivors hoping to escape from a vampire infestation arrive at a climate change facility during the final days of a long period of extended daylight, leading to a frightening and bloody confrontation between humans and vampires—a confrontation that takes a surprising twist thanks to an odd and unexpected guest.

## BATMAN: ARKHAM CITY #1 (OF 5)

*(DC MAR110289 $2.99)*

It's been a year since The Joker took over Arkham, and Gotham is still trying to get back to normal in this all-new, 5-issue miniseries bridging the gap between the hit ***videogame Batman: Arkham Asylum*** and the exciting, upcoming sequel, ***Batman: Arkham City.***

## COBRA #1

*(IDW MAR110421 $3.99)*

## GI JOE VOL 2 #1

*(IDW MAR110426 $3.99)*

## SNAKE EYES #1

*(IDW MAR110424 $3.99)*

"Cobra Civil War" begins in earnest! Cobra Commander is dead… long live Cobra Commander! The only problem is... there are nine candidates for the job, and with each more treacherous than the last...

## GLADSTONE'S SCHOOL FOR WORLD CONQUERORS #1

*(Image MAR110508 $2.99)*

"School days, school days/Conquer, kill, and rule days..." Welcome to a top-secret academy for the children of the world's greatest super villains to learn the trade. Join us as Kid Nefarious, Mummy Girl, Martian Jones, Ghost Girl, and the infamous Skull brothers unearth the School's and their parents' hidden past.

## LIONS TIGERS & BEARS TP VOL 3

*(Hermes MAR111165 $12.99)*

Oh, my! At long last, Joey, Courtney, Ares, Venus, Pallo, and Minerva embark on all-new adventures in *Mike Bullock's* original all-ages graphic novel.

## MEGA MAN #1

*(Archie FEB110748 $2.99)*

Did you realize that Archie's first videogame-based all-ages title is one of the comics' most successful licensed properties? Well, Archie Comics certainly does, which is why they're launching a second game-inspired book, this one based on Capcom's long-running and best-selling video game sensation.

## PAYING FOR IT HC

*(D&Q MAR111105 $24.95)*

Money can't buy love... but writer/artist *Chester Brown* is glad that it can be rented! In this sure-to-be-controversial graphic novel, Brown explains how he became not only a willing client and a vocal proponent of one of the world's most hot-button occupations—prostitution.

## RICHIE RICH #1 (OF 4)

*(Ape MAR110834 $3.95*

The classic Harvey Comics character gets a high-energy updating as he leads a group of adventurers in search of a long lost treasure buried deep beneath the waters of the south Pacific.

JAMESON REALLY WANTS A PHOTO OF THAT SO-CALLED VAMPIRE!
WELL, SINCE HE ONLY SEEMS TO STRIKE AT NIGHT...
I'LL JUST GRAB SOME SHUTEYE TILL THE SUN GOES DOWN.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-16
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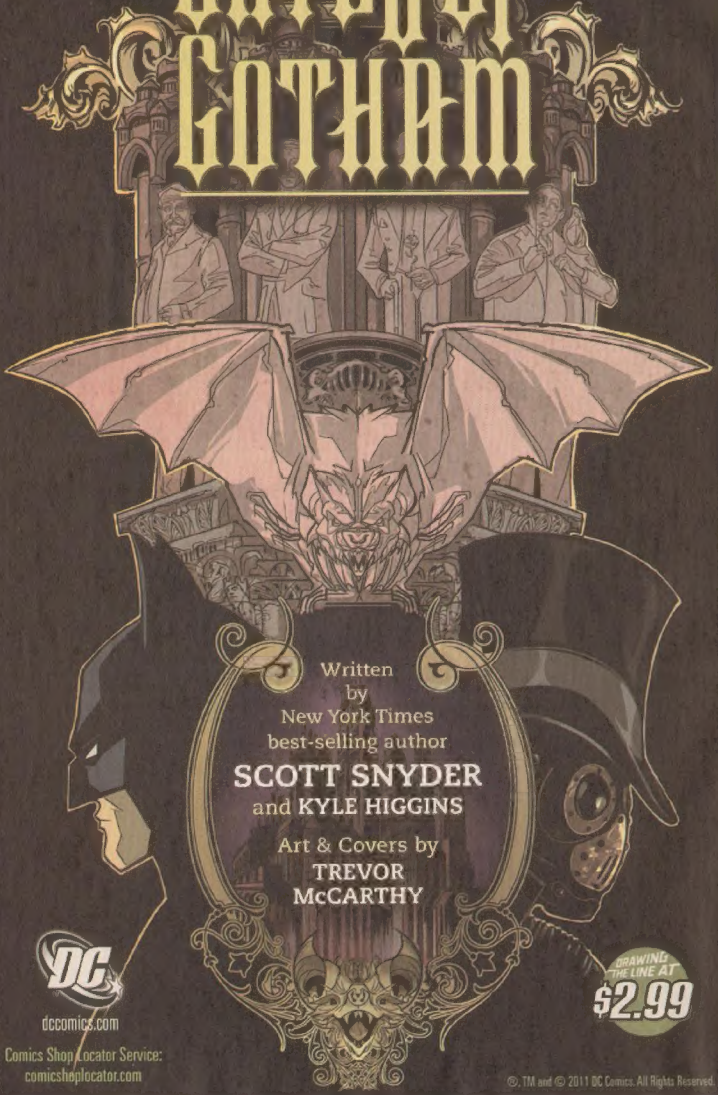
The dark secrets of Gotham City's past will destroy its future!

BATMAN

# GATES OF GOTHAM



Written
by
New York Times
best-selling author
SCOTT SNYDER
and KYLE HIGGINS

Art & Covers by
TREVOR
McCARTHY

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